

JOHN G. RYAN
1432 HIGHWOOD DRIVE
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22101

January 16, 2002

Ms. Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Renata:

As a Microsoft stockholder and resident of Northern Virginia, I am writing to encourage you to approve the settlement agreement in the case of United States v. Microsoft.

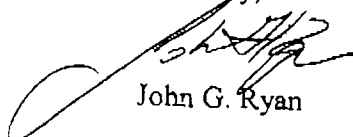
The settlement would be important to my state's economy and to Northern Virginia in particular, as it would help to ensure our continued growth and future prosperity in this Information Age.

In addition, such a settlement would allow the marketplace to remain an important factor in the development of technology.

This proposed settlement represents a reasonable compromise between Microsoft and the plaintiffs in the anti-trust case against it.

Thank you for considering these views.

Sincerely,



John G. Ryan

JGR/bc